

Abstract

A continuous process for manufacturing decorative panels includes the steps of forming a first continuous fiber reinforced resin layer, laying a continuous decorated sheet on the first fiber reinforced resin layer, forming a second continuous fiber reinforced resin layer on the continuous decorated sheet, eliminating a substratum of the decorated sheet so that the first and second fiber reinforced resin layers can join one another to form a continuous consolidated strip of fiber reinforced resin with an image suspended therein, curing the continuous consolidated strip, and cutting a panel from the continuous consolidated strip. The first fiber reinforced resin layer is preferably at least partially cured in a first curing step before the second fiber reinforced resin layer is formed. It is also preferred to laminate the first fiber reinforced resin layer and decorated sheet in a first laminating step producing a first laminate and laminating the second fiber reinforced resin layer and the first laminate in a second laminating step before final curing.